

Message Text

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SUBJECT:SOVIET PRESS ARTICLE ON LOS SEVENTH SESSION

REF: MOSCOW 5175

1. SOVIET LOS NEGOTIATOR IGOR I. YAKOVLEV HAS AUTHORED FOUR-THOUSAND WORD ARTICLE ON LOS NEGOTIATIONS ENTITLED "WORLD OCEAN AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION" WHICH IS PRINTED IN MAY EDITION OF MEZHDYNARODNNAYA ZHIZN'. WE WILL FORWARD FULL TRANSLATED VERSION WHEN IT APPEARS NEXT MONTH.

2. YAKOVLEV'S ARTICLE GENERALLY REPEATS THE THEMES SOVIETS PROPOUNDED BEFORE CURRENT LOS CONFERENCE (REFTEL). THE FIRST THIRD OF THE ARTICLE IS MAINLY DEVOTED TO STRONG ATTACKS AGAINST "UNILATERALISM." YAKOVLEV CRITICIZES THE "GROWING NUMBER OF UNILATERAL AND ARBITRARY ACTS OF SOME COASTAL STATES" AIMED AT
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"SEIZING" PORTIONS OF THE OCEANS' AREAS AND RESOURCES. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE SPECIFICALLY ATTACKS THE 1976 U.S. LAW ESTABLISHING A TWO-HUNDRED MILE "FISHERY ZONE" (EQUALLING "SIXTY PERCENT" OF U.S. TERRITORY) AS SETTING OFF A CHAIN REACTION OF SIMILAR PRONOUNCEMENTS BY EC COUNTRIES AND OTHER STATES. HE ALSO CRITICIZES U.S. LEGISLATION ON DEEP SEABED MINING WHICH WILL ENABLE THE

"U.S. REPRESENTATIVE" AT THE LOS CONFERENCE TO
"GET UP FROM HIS SEAT AND SAY THAT IF OTHER DELEGATES
WON'T MAKE CONCESSIONS, THE U.S. WILL GO ITS OWN WAY."
YAKOVLEV CONCLUDES ARTICLE'S FIRST SECTION BY STATING
THAT "THE SOVIET UNION AND OTHER COUNTRIES OF THE
'SOCIALIST' COMMUNITY ARE ACTIVELY AND CONSISTENTLY
FIGHTING AGAINST PARTITION OF THE WORLD OCEAN AND UNI-
LATERAL ACTS," AND THAT THE SOVIET UNION DOES NOT
RECOGNIZE AS LEGAL ANY EXTENSIONS OF TERRITORIAL WATERS

BEYOND THE TWELVE MILE LIMIT.

3. TONE OF REST OF ARTICLE IS GENERALLY UPBEAT. YAKOVLEV
CRITICIZES "SKEPTICS" PREDICTING FAILURE OF LOS CONFERENCE
AND OUTLINES SOME "SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS" OF THE LOS
NEGOTIATIONS TO DATE. HE HOLDS THERE IS NO ALTERNATIVE TO
AN LOS AGREEMENT, SINCE "THE PRACTICE OF UNILATERAL ACTIONS
AND GRABBING" COULD ONLY HINDER INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION
AND, IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, INJURE THOSE STATES RESORTING
TO SUCH ACTION.

4. ARTICLE REVIEWS SOVIET POSITIONS ON MAIN LOS ISSUES.
ON THE CONTINENTAL SHELF, IT SUGGESTS COMPROMISE OF ESTAB-
LISHING LIMIT OF ONE-HUNDRED NAUTICAL MILES BEYOND THE
200 MILE ECONOMIC ZONE. ARTICLE ALSO STRONGLY REGISTERS
UNYIELDING SOVIET POSITION ON DISPUTES SETTLEMENT AND
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AVOIDS CONSIDERATION OF SCIENCE OR POLLUTION ISSUES.
AFTER USING SOME SOCIALIST POLEMICS TO WEIGH IN ON SIDE OF
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ON SEABEDS EXPLOITATION ISSUE,
ARTICLE URGES A COMPROMISE THAT WOULD GUARANTEE A "REAL
OPPORTUNITY" FOR STATES WITH "DIFFEREING SOCIO-ECONOMIC
SYSTEMS" TO CARRY OUT -- ALONG WITH AND UNDER THE CONTROL
OF THE AUTHORITY -- EXPLOITATION OF THE SEABED.

5. YAKOVLEV CONCLUDES ARTICLE BY ASSERTING THAT SEVENTH
SESSION HAS SUCCEEDED IN MAKING SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS
TOWARDS SETTLING THE PROBLEMS OF THE WORLD OCEAN; THAT
THE SESSION HAS ILLUSTRATED THERE ARE ALREADY MUTUALLY
ACCEPTABLE SOLUTIONS FOR MANY KEY QUESTIONS; AND THAT
REMAINING PROBLEMS CAN BE SOLVED THROUGH A CONSTRUCTIVE
APPROACH AND CONSIDERATION OF LEGAL RIGHTS AND INTERESTS
OF ALL GROUPS OF STATES - A POSITION, HE CLAIMS, THAT IS
TAKEN BY THE SOVIET UNION, OTHER FRIENDLY "SOCIALIST"
STATES AND MANY OTHER COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD.
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